LISTING AND AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-3 (canceled).

Claim 4 (original). An oral pharmaceutical composition comprising two or more pluralities of particles, said particles comprising an active compound, wherein the particles of each said plurality are coated with a different thickness of a pH dissolution dependent polymethacrylate material to those of the or each other plurality, whereby the active compound is released at different locations in the intestinal tract.

Claim 5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (currently amended). A composition as claimed in Claim 4 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the particles of each plurality are coated with the same coating material as those of the or each other plurality.

Claim 7 (currently amended). A composition as claimed in Claim 4 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the polymethacrylate material comprises a methacrylic acid copolymer.

Claim 8 (currently amended). A composition as claimed in Claim 4 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the polymethacrylate material comprises a copolymer of methacrylic acid and methyl methacrylate.

Claim 9 (currently amended). A composition as claimed in Claim 4 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the polymethacrylate material is selected from a copolymer of methacrylic acid and methyl methacrylate having a ratio of free carboxyl groups to ester groups of about 1:2, a copolymer of methacrylic acid and methyl methacrylate having a ratio of free carboxyl groups to ester groups of about 1:1 or a mixture thereof.

Claim 10. A composition as claimed in Claim 4 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the particles are coated with a methacrylic acid copolymer of methacrylic acid and methyl methacrylate having a ratio of free carboxyl groups to ester groups of about 1:2.

Claim 11 (currently amended). A composition as claimed in Claim 4 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the particle has a diameter in the range 800 to 1500μm.

Claim 12 (currently amended). A composition as claimed in Claim 4 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the particles are coated with the polymethacrylate material to a theoretical weight gain on coating in the range 5% to 30%.

Claim 13 (currently amended). A composition as claimed in Claim 4 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the particles are coated with the polymethacrylate material to a theoretical weight gain on coating in the range 10% to 25%.

Claim 14 (currently amended). A composition as claimed in Claim 4 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the thickness of polymethacrylate material coating particles of each plurality of particles is of increments chosen to provide a homogeneous release profile of the active compound along at least one selected portion of the intestinal tract.

Claim 15 (currently amended). A composition as claimed in Claim 4 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, further comprising an enterically coated capsule within which the pluralities of particles are contained.

Claim 16 (currently amended). A composition as claimed in Claim 4 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein there are two pluralities of particles.

Claim 17 (currently amended). A composition as claimed in Claim 4 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein a first plurality of particles is coated to provide a theoretical weight

gain of 15% and a second plurality of particles is coated to provide a theoretical weight gain of 20%.

Claim 18 (currently amended). A composition as claimed in ~~Claim 16 and~~ Claim 17, wherein the first and second pluralities of particles are present in a ratio of about 1:3.

Claim 19 (currently amended). ~~Use of the~~ A method for controlling the release profile of an active compound in the intestinal tract comprising providing a coating thickness of a pH dissolution dependent coating material on particles comprising an active compound to control the release profile of the active compound in the intestinal tract.

Claim 20 (currently amended). A ~~use~~ method as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the coating material is a polymethacrylate material.

Claim 21 (currently amended). A ~~use~~ method as claimed in Claim 20, wherein the polymethacrylate material comprises a methacrylic acid copolymer.

Claim 22 (currently amended). A ~~use~~ method as claimed in Claim 20 ~~or Claim 21~~, wherein the polymethacrylate material comprises a copolymer of methacrylic acid and methyl methacrylate.

Claim 23 (currently amended). A ~~use~~ method as claimed in ~~any of Claims 19 to 22~~ Claim 20, wherein the polymethacrylate material is selected from a copolymer of methacrylic acid and methyl methacrylate having a ratio of free carboxyl groups to ester groups of about 1:2, a copolymer of methacrylic acid and methyl methacrylate having a ratio of free carboxyl groups to ester groups of about 1:1 or a mixture thereof.

Claim 24 (currently amended). The ~~use~~ method as claimed in ~~any of Claims 19 to 23~~ Claim 19, wherein the active compound is selected from the group consisting of peptides,

polypeptide agonists and antagonists of the immune system, proteins, interferons, TNF antagonists, hormones, cytokines, cytokine antagonists, analgesics, antipyretics, antibacterial agents, antiprotozoal agents, antiinflammatory agents, steroids, probiotics, prebiotics, antibiotics, bisphosphonates, cytotoxic agents, immunomodulators and antiparasitic agents.

Claim 25 (currently amended). An oral composition ~~as defined in any of Claims 1 to 18~~ according to Claim 4 for use in therapy or diagnosis practised on the human or animal body.

Claims 26-29 (canceled).

Claim 30 (original). A method of treating a disorder of the intestinal tract of a patient, said method comprising administering to a patient an effective amount of an active compound for treating that disorder in at least two pluralities of particles each coated with a different thickness of a coating material selected from

A. polymethacrylate material; and

B. a pH dissolution dependent coating material

to release the active compound at locations in the intestinal tract at which symptoms of the disorder are displayed.

Claim 31 (original). A method as claimed in Claim 30 wherein the disorder is Crohn's disease.

Claim 32 (currently amended). A method as claimed in ~~Claim 30 or~~ Claim 31 wherein there are two pluralities of particles.

Claim 33 (currently amended). A method ~~as claimed in any of Claims 30 to 32~~ according to Claim 31 wherein the active compound is prednisolone metasulphobenzoate.

Claim 34 (currently amended). A method ~~as claimed in any of Claims 30 to 33~~ according to Claim 30 wherein the coating material is polymethacrylate material.

Claim 35 (currently amended). A method ~~as claimed in any of Claims 30 to 34~~ according to Claim 30 wherein the active compound is released at locations before and after the ileo-caecal valve.

Claims 36-38 (canceled).

Claim 39 (new). The composition according to Claim 4, wherein the active compound is released at locations before and after the ileo-caecal valve.

Claim 40 (new). The composition according to Claim 4, wherein the active compound is selected from the group consisting of peptides, polypeptide agonists and antagonists of the immune system, proteins, interferons, TNF antagonists, hormones, cytokines, cytokine antagonists, analgesics, antipyretics, antibacterial agents, antiprotozoal agents, antiinflammatory agents, steroids, probiotics, prebiotics, antibiotics, bisphosphonates, cytotoxic agents, immunomodulators and antiparasitic agents.

Claim 41 (new). The composition according to Claim 4, wherein the active compound is selected from the group consisting of erythropoietin, human growth hormone, metronidazole, clarithomycin, gentamycin, ciprofloxacin, rifabutin, 5-aminosalicylic acid, 4-aminosalicylic acid, balsalazide, α-amylase, paracetamol, metformin, prednisolone metasulphobenzoate, cyclophosphamide, cisplatin, vincristine, methotrexate, azathioprine, cyclosporin and albenazole.

Claim 42 (new). The composition according to Claim 4 wherein the active compound is selected from the group consisting of prednisolone metasulphobenzoate, paracetamol, metronidazole and α-amylase.